UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.1
15 January 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft organization of work for the twenty-sixth session of the Population Commission, which is contained in the annex to the present note, has been prepared in order to facilitate the Commission's consideration of the items on the agenda for the session within the time and conference services allocated to it.

2. It should be noted that it is proposed to begin consideration of agenda item 4, on the 1994 international meeting on population, immediately following the opening session in order to give maximum time to the open-ended session on the 1994 international meeting on population.

* E/CN.9/1991/1.

READEX FICHE

Annex

DRAFT ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Wednesday, 27 February	
Morning	Item 1. Election of officers.
	Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
	Introductory statements
	Item 4. The 1994 international meeting on population. (Open-ended session, general discussion)
Afternoon	Item 4. (Continuation of general discussion)
Thursday, 28 February	
Morning and afternoon	Item 4. (Continuation of general discussion)
Friday, 1 March	
Morning and afternoon	Item 4. (Continuation of general discussion)
	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 4: Friday, 1 March, 6 p.m.
Monday, 4 March	
Morning	Item 4. (Consideration and adoption of the draft proposals)
Afternoon	Item 3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974:
	(a) General debate on national experience in population matters;
Tuesday, 5 March	
Morning	Item 3. (b) Monitoring of population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure. (General discussion)

Afternoon	Item 5. Programme questions: (a) Programme performance and implementation; (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993. (General discussion) Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 3: Tuesday, 5 March, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, 6 March	
Morning	Item 5. (Continuation of general discussion)
Afternoon	Item 6. Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984. (General discussion) Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 5: Wednesday, 6 March, 6 p.m.
Thursday, 7 March	
Morning and afternoon	Item 6. (Continuation of general discussion) Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 6: Thursday, 7 March, 6 p.m.
Friday, 8 March	
Morning	Consideration of draft proposals submitted under items 3, 5 and 6 Item 7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.
Afternoon	Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.1/Rev.1
26 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-4 March 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat

Following informal consultations held on 26 February, the revised draft organization of work for the twenty-sixth session of the Population Commission, which is contained in the annex to the present note, has been prepared in order to facilitate the Commission's consideration of the items on the agenda for the session within the time and conference services allocated to it.

---

* E/CN.9/1991/1.

Annex

REVISED DRAFT ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Wednesday, 27 February

Morning

Item 1. Election of officers.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Introductory statements

Item 3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974:

(a) General debate on national experience in population matters;

Afternoon

Item 3 (a) (continuation of general discussion)

(b) Monitoring of population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure.
(General discussion)

Thursday, 28 February

Morning

Item 5. Programme questions:

(a) Programme performance and implementation;

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993.
(General discussion)

Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 3: Thursday, 28 February, 1 p.m.

Afternoon

Item 5. (Continuation of general discussion)

Item 6. Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984.
(General discussion)

Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 5: Thursday, 28 February, 6 p.m.

Friday, 1 March	
Morning	Item 6. (Continuation of general discussion)
	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 6: Friday, 1 March, 6 p.m.
Afternoon	Item 7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.
Monday, 4 March	Consideration of draft proposals submitted under items 3, 5 and 6
	Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.2
22 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Status of documentation for the session

Note by the Secretary-General

By Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/1 and 1979/69 on the control and limitation of documentation and 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the Council reiterated that the Secretariat should circulate the relevant documentation in all the working languages six weeks before the opening of the sessions of the Council and its subsidiary organs, and invited the Secretariat to take steps to ensure effective compliance with rule 13, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure of the Council. By resolution 1979/69, the Council requested the Secretariat to inform the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in the relevant annotated agenda, which documents had not been issued in accordance with the six-week rule, with a full explanation of the reasons that prevented their circulation.

In view of the schedule of the twenty-sixth session of the Population Commission (27 February-8 March 1991), the documentation for the session should have been submitted to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services by 12 December 1990 and circulated by 16 January 1991. The documents not circulated by that date are listed in the annex below.

---

* E/CN.9/1991/1.

ANNEX

Status of documentation as at 22 February 1991

Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue
2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters			
	Provisional agenda (E/CN.9/1991/1)	20 November 1990	21 January 1991	30 January 1991
3	Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974			
	Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure (E/CN.9/1991/2)	21 November 1990	7 January 1991	12 February 1991
4	The 1994 international meeting on population			
	Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population (E/1991/5)	9 January 1991	20 February 1991	27 February 1991
5	Programme questions			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/1991/3)	29 November 1990	10 December 1990	7 February 1991

Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue
5	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: Technical co-operation activities in population of the Department of Technical Co-operation (E/CN.9/1991/3/Add.1)	21 December 1990	11 January 1991	15 February 1991
	Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work in the field of population for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.9/1991/4)	4 January 1991	22 January 1991	8 February 1991
	Report of the Secretary-General on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations (E/CN.9/1991/5)	4 January 1991	21 January 1991	20 February 1991
6	Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984			
	Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure (E/CN.9/1991/2)	21 November 1990	7 January 1991	12 February 1991
	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population (E/CN.9/1991/7)	3 December 1990	19 December 1990	19 February 1991
	Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of multilateral population assistance (E/CN.9/1991/8)	8 January 1991	17 January 1991	21 February 1991

Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue
6	Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on activities of the United Nations Population Fund (E/CN.9/1991/9)	20 December 1990	24 January 1991	23 February 1991
	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CN.9/1991/10)	3 December 1990	4 January 1991	20 February 1991
	Report of the Secretary-General on interrelationships between population and environment in rural areas of developing countries (E/CN.9/1991/6)	21 November 1990	30 November 1990	20 February 1991

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.3
28 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March 1991
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy Z. HOLZER (Poland)

Chapter II

ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

1. The Population Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 444th and 445th meetings on 27 February 1991. It had before it document E/CN.9/1991/2, entitled "Concise report on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure: report of the Secretary-General".

2. The Population Commission paid tribute to two former members, Alfred Sauvy and Jean Bourgeois-Pichat, who had passed away since the twenty-fifth session of the Commission. Mr. Sauvy and Mr. Bourgeois-Pichat had headed the delegations of France and served the Population Commission with distinction since its first session in 1947.

A. General debate on national experience in population matters

3. At its twenty-fifth session, the Population Commission concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate during which members would be able to exchange views and national experience in the area of population. That conclusion was approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1989/170.

4. In the general debate on national experience in population matters, many delegations reported on the demographic situation in their respective countries and provided information on demographic trends, population policies and programmes, the integration of population and development, and international cooperation and assistance. The importance of sharing national experiences was noted.

5. Many delegations noted that population ageing had become an extremely important issue in their countries. The dramatic growth and the sheer magnitude of the elderly population were posing a number of problems in such areas as the dependency burden, income, consumption, savings, social security schemes, health care systems, labour-force participation, mobility and productivity. In addition, it was mentioned that problems of ageing were not limited to the aged but affected other population age groups and families and households also. A number of developing countries were already confronting problems associated with ageing, and would in future experience an unprecedentedly rapid ageing of their populations.

6. A number of delegations spoke of the problem of international migration and its impact on both sending and receiving countries. It was noted that more attention should be given to the causes of migration as a means of understanding the flow. Delegates noted the importance of studies on refugees and asylum-seekers, especially in less developed countries; international migration from less developed countries to more developed countries; and the demographic, social, economic and political impact of international migration, both in countries of origin and destination.

7. The strengthening of family planning programmes and other reproductive health services continued to be of high priority to many Governments as a means of enabling couples to achieve the desired number and spacing of their children, as an integral part of the effort to improve maternal and child health and, in many cases, as a factor contributing to the attainment of the goal of sustainable development. Delegates reaffirmed the necessity of respecting both human rights and responsibilities in that area. Several delegates mentioned that, although great progress had been made during the past two decades in extending and strengthening family planning services and the associated provision of population information, education and communications, much remained to be done. It was noted that underserved populations could be found in some of the more developed countries as well as in many developing countries. The need for substantially strengthened international, multilateral and bilateral assistance in that area was therefore seen as a high priority.

8. Women's status and its relationship to family policy, fertility, the labour force and broader issues of social and economic development were mentioned by many delegates, who reported a variety of policies, programmes and institutional arrangements made in order to ensure that women were taken into account at all stages of population planning and population programmes.

9. Several delegations described actions taken to lower mortality, particularly through maternal and child health programmes, which had in some cases been integrated with family planning services. Several delegates pointed to an emerging need to give more attention to the measurement and the problems of adult mortality,

particularly considering the likely increase in the burden of chronic and debilitating diseases and the potential effect of AIDS. Some delegates suggested further studies on adult mortality levels and trends by causes of death.

10. The growing global impact of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) had remained of pressing concern to many Governments, including those that currently had not experienced a large direct impact on their own populations. There has been need, inter alia, to continue improving the demographic estimates of the current and projected impact of the AIDS crisis and for improving the collection and analysis of data needed to understand the transmission and spread of HIV.

11. The improvement of statistics on population was of concern to developing and developed countries alike. In the latter countries, the traditional sources of statistical data often did not fully reflect emerging social trends, such as changes in patterns of family formation, and were inadequate for investigating the social and economic causes and consequences of population trends. Several delegates described measures taken to improve population statistics. In many developing countries there remained, in addition, a great need for improving the vital statistics systems and the technical capacity for conducting and especially evaluating and analysing population censuses and surveys.

12. Several delegations noted that a great diversity of demographic, social and economic situations existed within their countries and described approaches by their Government to tailor population policies to local conditions and to interrelate them with the achievement of sustainable development. Problems concerning distribution of the population, both geographically and demographically, and problems of natural resources and the environment were viewed as being intertwined, as both cause and effect. It was seen as important for Governments to address population, development and environmental concerns in an integrated manner, in all appropriate forums.

13. Many delegates noted that, although certain population issues required action primarily at the national or subnational level, others were partly determined by circumstances, events, and policies at the international or global level. It was therefore thought to be essential to encourage increased coordination and cooperation at the global, interregional and regional levels. In that respect, many delegates expressed their appreciation to the United Nations for its role in fostering coordination and cooperation. The important role of non-governmental organizations was also stressed, at the local, national and international levels. However, a great need remained for technical assistance and training, and for operational support of population policies and programmes.

B. Monitoring of population trends and policies

14. Many delegations welcomed the special discussion on age structure included in the concise report on the monitoring of world population trends and policies and remarked on the high quality of the report. However, regret was expressed that the document had not been made available earlier. Appreciation was expressed for the increased use of graphical presentation, which was in response to suggestions made

by the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session. Other suggestions by the Commission were also reflected in the report, such as attention to the situation in the least developed countries. The Commission expressed appreciation of the extensive discussions of population ageing and of international migration provided in the background document (ESA/P/WP.114). Delegates suggested that the report should receive wide distribution, preferably by issuing it in several languages.

15. Many comments were devoted to the special topic of age structure, which had been recommended by the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session. Delegates expressed their great appreciation for that chapter and it was observed that the topic was of great concern to both developing and developed countries. It was noted that, even though the proportion of people aged over 65 years was still much smaller in developing than in developed countries, one half of the world's elderly population were living in developing countries. That percentage was projected to increase in the future. It was noted that the problems of ageing confronting the developed countries today would be the problems confronting developing countries tomorrow.

16. Because of the heterogenous composition of the elderly populations, it was suggested that in future work should distinguish between the old and very old populations. It was also noted that the apparent size of the elderly population was sensitive to the choice of a particular number of years as the lower age limit for the definition of "elderly" - whether 60 years or 65 years. It was agreed that, both in tabulation and in analysis, effort should be made to determine and use more detailed age classifications for the elderly. However, it was also recognized that the monitoring report must remain uncomplicated in order to make it accessible to a broad audience.

17. Several delegations urged that the United Nations in its future work programme give more emphasis to the economic and social consequences of population ageing. At the same time it was recognized that such a complex set of issues would require the commitment of considerably expanded resources.

18. One delegate drew attention to the need to reconsider the regional classifications as a consequence of recent changes in political boundaries.

19. Several delegations made suggestions for future special topics in subsequent reports on the monitoring of population trends and policies. Many delegations mentioned international migration; others suggested internal migration and urbanization, fertility and family planning, and the social, cultural and economic context of persistent high fertility in sub-Saharan Africa.